

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH to the RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of WILTON for the year ending 31st December, 1902.

GENTLEMEN,

The population at the census of 1901 was 7,467, and at Midsummer, 1902, it had increased to 7,572.

The area of the district is 54,074 acres, which is equivalent to one inhabitant to every 6·6 acres. The number of inhabited houses is 1,715, which gives an average of 4·3 inhabitants to each house.

The public Water supplies at Bemerton, Quidhampton, and Fovant, have been quite satisfactory during the year.

In 1902 fifty-nine samples of water were analysed from wells, streams, and tanks. In nine instances the water was bad. Five wells were cleansed and seven new wells were sunk: in two cases the well was retained for household purposes, and rain tanks were provided for drinking and cooking. The samples of water examined came from the following parishes. From Barford St. Martin 6, Baverstock 4, Bemerton 2, Berwick St. James 1, Bishopstone 4, Bower Chalke 2, Broadchalke 16, Compton Chamberlayne 2, Dinton 2, Fisherton Delamere 3, Fovant 4, Little Langford 1, South Newton 1, Stapleford 1, Wishford 2, and Wylke 1.

There are 187 houses in the District supplied from the service pipes of Public Water Works.

The samples of food are taken by a special Officer, appointed by the County Council for the purpose.

Fifteen new houses were erected during the year, and fifteen were renovated and made fit for habitation; 68 were cleansed and limewashed, and two were closed as unfit for human habitation. One case of overcrowding occurred, and was abated.

Eight drains were relaid; 14 were cleansed, trapped, and ventilated; 3 defective waste pipes were rectified; 8 sinks and cesspools were altered and improved; and 34 privies were repaired and cleansed.

The streams and watercourses are in good order, and the rainfall afforded an improved supply of water this year. With a view to removing the nuisances so often reported at Bemerton, arising from the difficulty of sewage disposal, the District Council formulated a scheme for the sewerage of the District, and the proper treatment of the sewage by Broad Irrigation. A Local Government enquiry has taken place, but the report has not yet been received. The District Council has also undertaken the treatment of the Sewage coming from the Wilton Union Workhouse, with a view to discharging a pure effluent into the river instead of crude sewage as at present. Should these two measures be carried out, they will constitute a very substantial advance in the sanitation of the District.

The Burial Grounds are properly kept, and none are at present overcrowded.

Twenty-five factories, workshops, and bakehouses were inspected during the year, of which two were certified for limewashing.

One hundred and four Dairies and Cowsheds are now on the Register, and have been inspected during the year. In 15 cases animals were found improperly kept, and notices served.

In 1902 there were sixty-eight cases of Infectious disease notified. Of these 38 were Scarlatina; 5 cases from Bemerton, 7 from Bishopstone, 5 from Bower Chalke, 3 from Broad Chalke, 13 from Burcombe, 1 from Compton Chamberlayne, 1 from Grovely, 1 from South Newton, and 2 from Steeple Langford. No death occurred from Scarlatina.

There were 17 cases of Diphtheria in the parishes of Bemerton, Barford, Bishopstone, Broad Chalke, Burcombe, and South Newton.

Eleven cases of Erysipelas were notified from eight localities. One case of Membranous Croup occurred in Bemerton; and one case of Puerperal Fever in Wylke, and one in Broad Chalke. Among the Epidemic Diseases which are not notifiable, Measles, Whooping Cough, and Influenza were prevalent, and eight deaths were registered as due to them; while only three deaths were due to notifiable Zymotic disease.

No case of wilful exposure by infected persons occurred. One case of Scarlatina was reported to me by letter and I at once enquired into it, but I did not consider that there had been any conduct such as would have warranted a prosecution under the 126th section of the Public Health Act, 1875. The girl was a servant in another district, and her master's children were suffering from German Measles. On a Monday the girl felt ill, saw a doctor, and her mother brought her home on the Tuesday in a Carrier's cart. On Thursday a rash appeared, which was notified as Scarlatina. It was clear that although the girl was ill she had no reasonable ground for thinking that she was developing Scarlatina.

In consequence of the prevalence of Measles, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Scarlatina, I recommended the Managers of the following Schools to take the necessary steps for closing them for a time, and these were reported to the Council.

Broadchalke	Whooping cough	Jan. 6th to 20th.
Burcombe	Scarlatina	April 18th to May 12th.
Fovant	Measles	April 25th to June 2nd.
South Newton	Ditto	Sept. 10th to Oct. 3rd.
Bishopstone	Diphtheria	Sept. 22nd to Oct. 13th.
Great Wishford	Measles	Oct. 9th to Oct. 31st.
Burcombe	Ditto	Oct. 28th to Nov. 17th.

As yet, with the exception of the Cottage leased by the District Council in Compton Wood as a Small-pox Hospital, there is no provision in the District for the isolation of cases of infectious disease. I would respectfully draw the attention of the Council to the Memorial signed by all the Medical Men in this neighbourhood (who were not Health Officers), recommending that the Salisbury Urban and Rural Districts, and the Wilton Urban and Rural Districts, should combine to form a "Hospital District" for the establishment of an Isolation Hospital at some convenient site, and that the Bungalow, already acquired by Salisbury, be purchased as a Small-pox Hospital for the combined District. The advantages of this arrangement would be that the County Council would have power to contribute out of the County rate towards "Structural Expenses," which includes not only the cost of the site and the buildings, but the furnishing and all necessary appliances, as well as all the expenses of an Enquiry, and the costs of forming a Hospital District. The County Council would also have the power to contribute an annual sum towards the "Establishment Expenses," which includes salaries and maintenance. The management would be in the hands of a Joint Committee, and there is no doubt that such a Hospital would be more efficiently and economically administered, and would be of greater sanitary value to the combined District than the same number of beds would be if broken up into four small Hospitals. At the present moment such an amalgamation seems possible, and it will be a matter of regret if the opportunity is lost. I may remind the Council that the initiative may be taken by any one Authority making an independent application to the County Council, although a simultaneous and identical application would be a more courteous and diplomatic procedure, if the four District Councils were of the same mind.

Among the deaths registered during the year, 13 were due to Heart disease, 11 to Cancer, 9 to Bronchitis, 6 to Whooping cough, 2 to Pneumonia, 1 to Phthisis, 1 to Measles, 1 to Croup, 1 to Influenza, 1 to Puerperal Fever, 1 to Erysipelas, 2 to Accidents, and 1 to Suicide.

The whole District has been inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances. The Sanitary Staff remains the same.

The number of deaths from all causes was 116, giving a death-rate of 15·3 per 1,000, as against 14·3 in 1901, and 15·4 in 1900. The average death-rate in England and Wales is 16·9 per 1,000. The average death-rate in this District during the last 10 years is 13·7 per 1,000.

The Infantile mortality was unusually high, there having been 6 deaths from Whooping cough, and 4 Premature Births, in all 22 Infants died under 1 year, giving an Infantile mortality of 133 per 1,000 births. This is the highest rate we have had for 10 years, although the average rate in England and Wales is 151 per 1,000 births.

The Births registered were 180, equal to a birth-rate of 23·7 per 1,000 of the population as against 28·5 in England and Wales.

I append the usual tables of Sickness and Deaths, and a Summary of the supervision exercised. During the year 186 notices were served, and 166 have been complied with.

CHARLES R. STRATON,

Lic. San. Sci., Durham,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TABLE I.—WILTON RURAL DISTRICT.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1892	7852	200	20·2	12	60	128	14·9
1893	7924	193	24·3	21	108	113	14·2
1894	8004	194	24·2	19	97	119	14·8
1895	8079	210	26·0	8	38	125	15·4
1896	8164	193	24·9	11	57	91	11·1
1897	8266	189	22·8	18	95	104	12·5
1898	8351	183	21·9	22	120	96	11·4
1899	8438	180	21·3	15	83	111	13·1
1900	8507	188	21·8	19	101	132	15·4
1901	7467	180	24·0	14	77	107	14·3
Averages for years 1892-1901	8105	191	23·1	15	83	112	13·7
1902	7572	180	23·7	22	133	116	15·3

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	} 54,074	Total population at all ages, 7,467	} At Census of 1901.
		Number of inhabited houses, 1,715	
		Average number of persons per house, 4·3	

TABLE II.—*Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1902 and previous years.*
Same as in Table I.

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1902 in the Wilton Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.															
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Barford.	Bemerton	Bishop-stone.	Bower Chalke.	Broad Chalke.	Burecombe	Compton Cham-berlayne.	Fifield.	Fovant.	Grovely.	South Newton.	Steeple Langford	Wishford	Wylve.	Work-house, Wilton Union.	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.																65 and upwards.
Diphtheria ...	17	1	3	6	3	4	...	2	1	1	8	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous Croup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	11	...	1	1	1	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	2	1	1	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever ...	38	1	5	29	2	1	...	5	7	5	3	13	1	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
TOTALS ...	69	2	9	37	7	11	4	8	8	6	11	15	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	1	...	3

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1902 in the Wilton Rural District.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).		
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Wilton.	Bishop-stone.	Work-house.
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping-cough	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...
Diphtheria and membranous eroup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Epidemie influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Diarrhoea	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enteritis	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Puerperal fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Other tubereular diseases	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...
Caneer, malignant disease	11	...	...	...	...	1	10	2	6	3
Bronchitis	9	2	1	...	...	1	5	3	6	...
Pneumonia	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...
Premature birth	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
Heart diseases	13	...	...	...	...	3	10	6	7	...
Accidents	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
All other causes	56	5	3	5	2	15	26	25	23	8
ALL CAUSES	116	22	6	7	2	22	57	56	49	11

TABLE V.

Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Wilton Rural District during the year ending 31st December, 1902.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under Direction of Medical Officer of Health.

No. of Cases enquired into	58
No. of Houses Disinfected and cleansed	32
No. of Patients removed to Hospital	Nil.
Lots of Bedding, Clothing, etc., Disinfected or Destroyed	Nil.
Cases of Illegal Exposure reported	1

Houses.

No. erected (if information obtainable)	15
No. made fit for habitation	15
No. closed as unfit for Habitation	2
No. Cleansed and Limewashed	68

Overcrowding.

No. of Cases Abated	1
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House Drains.

No. Laid or Re-laid	8
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated	14
No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified	3
No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified	4
No. of Dumbwells rectified	4

Water Closets.

No. of additional W.C.'s provided	Nil.
No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns	3

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided	Nil.
No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-closets	Nil.
No. converted to Pail-Closets	1
No. Repaired	8

Scavenging.

Total No. of Houses from which Refuse Removable by the Authority	Nil.
Total No. of Privies and Ashpits Cleansed	26
Total No. of Portable Receptacles Cleansed	Nil.
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Excrement Removed	Nil.
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Refuse Removed	Nil.
No. of New Dust Receptacles provided	Nil.

Smoke Nuisances.

No. Under Observation	Nil.
No. Abated	Nil.

Offensive Trades.

No. under observation	Nil.
No. Improperly Conducted	Nil.

Water Supply.

No. of Wells sunk	7
No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired	5
No. of Wells Closed as Polluted	1
No. of Houses supplied from Waterworks (during year)	187
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	59

Slaughter Houses.

No. Registered or Licensed	Nil.
No. Regularly Inspected	2
No. Cleansed and Repaired	2

Dairies and Cowsheds.

No. of Persons Engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under supervision	104
No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Byelaws dealt with	Nil.
No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector	Nil.

Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses.

No. under Inspection	25
No. Certified for Lime-washing by Inspector	2
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances	Nil.
No. employing "Young Persons," etc., reported to Medical Officer of Health	Nil.

Lodging Houses.

No. on Register	Nil.
No. Regularly Inspected	Nil.
No. Cleansed and Repaired	Nil.

Food.

No. of Seizures as unfit for Consumption	Nil.
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Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.

No. of cases of Removal on Notice	15
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Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of Removals	3
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Legal Proceedings.

No. taken	Nil.
No. of Convictions obtained	Nil.
No. of Cases Withdrawn or Dismissed	Nil.

Clerical Work.

No. of Notices Served	186
No. of Notices Complied with	166
No. of Notices Outstanding	20

(Signed) JOHN GOULDEN,
Inspector of Nuisances.

